

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9911

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5417

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PK, BG

SUBJ: BHUTTO ON PAKISTAN/INDIAN/BANGLADESH RELATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 5348

1. DURING MEETING WITH ME JULY 5, PRES BHUTTO SAID
DELAY IN HIS GOING TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NA) FOR AUTHORIZ-
ING RESOLUTION ON RECOGNITION BANGLADESH STEMMED PURELY
FROM LEGAL PROBLEM. CHIEF JUSTICE OF LAHORE HIGH COURT
HAD COME TO SEE HIM AND HAD EXPRESSED VIEW THAT RESOLUTION
WOULD MOST PROBABLY NOT STAND UP IF SUBJECTED TO COURT
SCRUTINY BECAUSE OF WAY IN WHICH (FORMER) EAST PAKISTAN
PROVINCE WAS DEALT WITH IN EXISTING INTERIM CONSTITUTION.
GOP HAD CONSEQUENTLY DECIDED TO SEEK ADVISORY OPINION
OF SUPREME COURT. MOST RECENTLY, CHIEF JUSTICE OF COURT HAD COME TO SEE HIM AND HAD REMARKED ON QTE AS ESOME
RESPONSIBILITY UNQTE FACING SUPREME COURT ON THIS ISSUE.
BHUTTO HAD REMARKED TO CHIEF JUSTICE THAT COURT HAD BEEN
ASKED FOR ADVISORY OPINION AND NOT A FINAL DECISION WHICH
WOULD BE UP TO GOVT; HE HAD ASKED THAT ADVISORY
OPINION BY PROVIDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BHUTTO THEN TOLD
ME THAT, IF ADVISORY OPINION POSITIVE AND RECEIVED IN TIME,
HE STILL INTENDED SEEK AUTHORIZING PARLIAMENTARY RESOLU-
TION BEFORE NA ADJOURNED ON JULY 10 OR 11.

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2. BHUTTO REMARKED THAT JAMAAT-I-ISLAMI AND ASGHAR KHAN'S
PARTY HAD INITIATED DOOR-TO-DOOR CAMPAIGNS IN KARACHI AND
LAHORE AGAINST BANGLADESH RECOGNITION. HE WAS NOT AFRAID
OF THEM, HOWEVER, AND HE WAS DETERMINED TO MOVE AHEAD
AS FAST AS HE COULD. HE HAD TAKEN OCCASION OF OPPOSI-

TION LEADERS PRESENCE AT MY JULY 4 RECEPTION TO URGE THEIR SUPPORT IN HIS EFFORT TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS IN SUB-CONTINENT.

3. ASSUMING LEGAL PROBLEM RESOLVED, I ASKED, WHAT WAS HIS TIMING ON ACTUALLY ACCORDING RECOGNITION TO BANGLADESH? HE SAID THAT DEPENDED ON MUJIB. HE WILL WANT TO HAVE SOME UNDERSTANDING ON WAR-CRIMES TRIALS AND ALSO ON TREATMENT OF BIHARIS. THE BENGALIS IN PAKISTAN OFFERED NO PROBLEM, SINCE HE WAS READY TO LET THEM GO AS SOON AS OTHER MATTERS WERE RESOLVED. HE WOULD STILL LIKE TO MEET WITH MUJIB. IF MUJIB PERSISTED IN REFUSING TO MEET HIM AT EARLY DATE, REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO GOVTS COULD MEET TOGETHER. IF SATISFACTORY UNDERSTANDING WERE WORKED OUT, HE COULD ENVISAGE GOING BACK TO US IN THE FALL TO MEET MUJIB AT UNGA. GOP WOULD ACCORD RECOGNITION AND BANGLADESH COULD PRESUMABLY BE ADMITTED PROMPTLY INTO UN. BUT, BHUTTO REITERATED, THIS DEPENDED ON MUJIB.

4. AS FOR MEETING WITH INDIANS, BHUTTO SAID, GOI HAD SUGGESTED JULY 16 -- DAY WHEN HE WOULD BE ARRIVING IN US. MEETING AT THAT TIME WOULD THUS NOT BE POSSIBLE. BHUTTO SAID HE ASSUMED MEETING WOULD BE ARRANGED FOR SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETURN FROM US TRIP.
SOBER

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